

# Delaware County Sustainability Commission

August 19, 2021



- *This meeting is being recorded and live-streamed.*
- *The recording and minutes will be posted to the Sustainability Commission website.*
- *You can participate in the live meeting by sending comments or questions to*  
[GoGreenDelco@co.delaware.pa.us](mailto:GoGreenDelco@co.delaware.pa.us)

# Sustainability Commission Charge

- To create recommendations regarding best environmental and energy practices in the areas of buildings, facilities and operations; fuels, vehicles, and transportation; food; responsible purchasing; housing; energy sources; air quality; stormwater management; natural and cultural resource protection, wildlife preservation; and climate change
- To identify and assess environmental and energy policies the County has adopted and provide recommendations to promote and educate about the County's environmental and energy initiatives.
- To identify and provide recommendations regarding voluntary actions, projects, and programs for municipalities, businesses, non-profits, and other partners to implement County environmental and energy policies.
- To create, review and provide ongoing input into a Delaware County Sustainability Action Plan.
- To recommend Triple Bottom Line-related actions, projects, and programs to Council for implementation.



# Agenda

- Welcome and Roll Call
- Approval of July Meeting Minutes
- Chief Sustainability Officer Update: Francine Locke
- Capital Improvement Planning Process Update: Sharon Jaye
- Recommendations for Resolution Amendments
- Sustainability Plan – High-Level Goals: Sharon Jaye
- Discussion about Committees
- New Business/Announcements
- Adjourn



Public Comment: [GoGreenDelco@co.delaware.pa.us](mailto:GoGreenDelco@co.delaware.pa.us)

# Approval of July Meeting Minutes



Public Comment: [GoGreenDelco@co.delaware.pa.us](mailto:GoGreenDelco@co.delaware.pa.us)

# Chief Sustainability Officer Update

Presenter: Francine Locke



Public Comment: [GoGreenDelco@co.delaware.pa.us](mailto:GoGreenDelco@co.delaware.pa.us)

# Updates

- Presented at in-person Newtown Township EAC meeting.
- Performed site visit to Covanta with Executive Director Lazarus and attended meeting with Covanta's CSO.
- Met with Mike Ewall, founder and director of Energy Justice Network, to discuss Chester's incinerator and the RFP for a consultant to draft RFP for SWMP.
- Attended Solarize Delco Press Conference at Temple Lutheran Church in Haverford Township.

## Solarize Delco completes largest project to date as the county takes a fresh approach to sustainability



By [Kenny Cooper](#) · August 1, 2021



# C-PACE Program:

## Property Assessed Clean Energy Program for Local County Businesses

- Delaware County formally adopted the C-PACE Program March 2021
- Public webinar was held on August 11, 202
- **30 Registered Attendees**
- **The webinar is posted on YouTube:**  
<https://youtu.be/VvFaZMuaeTs>





# Capital Improvement Program (CIP):

Creating an open and transparent practice for CIP planning

- **On August 5, 2021, the Capital Projects Committee met to review the proposed CIP prioritization process.**
  - Dr. Monica Taylor, Councilmember
  - Elaine Schaefer, Councilmember
  - Jack Bierling, Public Works Director
  - Dr. Sharon Jaye, Sustainability Program Manager
  - Julie DelMuto, GIS & Information Services Manager, Planning Department
  - Howard Lazarus, Executive Director
  - Sue Depompeo, Budget Analyst
  - Francine Locke, CSO
  - Pippa Barratt, Sustainability Intern
- Goal – to provide a prioritized CIP Plan to Council for Budget approval.
- Dr. Jaye will provide update in future slides.





# Facility Condition and Needs Assessment:

Creating a baseline for all County-owned properties to allow for equitable distribution of future project funding.

- KCBA is on target for an October 1<sup>st</sup> completion date.
- Once completed, KCBA will report their comprehensive FCNA findings to the Sustainability Commission.



# Southeastern Pennsylvania Regional Power Purchase Agreement (RPPA)

- DVRPC provided Delaware, Bucks, Montgomery, and Chester Counties a draft RFP and MOU to enter into an agreement with an energy consulting firm.
- Final MOU approved by Delaware County Council on August 18, 2021.
- DVRPC will move forward with the RFP process.



# PADEP's Local Climate Action Program (LCAP)

- Delaware County has been selected for Year 3 of the PA DEP's LCAP.
- Matched with two students from Bryn Mawr College.
- First meeting held with students on Wednesday, 8/18/21.
- Next meeting is a Cohort Kick Off Session Tuesday, 8/24/21.
- Timeline for completion of Part 1 - GHG inventory is end of December.



# Delaware County Solid Waste Management Plan

- County Council approved to advertise an RFQ for professional services to develop a Solid Waste Management Plan.
- A draft RFP/Q was reviewed by County staff, Councilmembers and stakeholder Mike Ewall, founder and director of Energy Justice Network.
- Ewall added language to reflect [Zero Waste Hierarchy](#) and help the County obtain accurate tipping fee information for long-term landfill use.
  - Specifically, added the, "County will issue an RFP for 10-year contracting with private landfills, and Delaware County's Solid Waste Authority will provide all-in costs for continued use of their Rolling Hills Landfill, so that the Contractor can included this in a financial analysis of available options."
- The RFP is being processed by Procurement Office for advertisement next week.



# Solid Waste Management Plan – Updated Goals

- Ensure that the County has sufficient processing and disposal capacity for its municipal waste for the next 10 years.
- Guide the County's transition to sustainable methods of materials management using Zero Waste practices and following the Zero Waste Hierarchy.
- Ensure maximum feasible waste reduction of municipal waste and source-separated recyclable material.
- Assure the effectiveness of the County's recycling programs, including market development, and investigate the feasibility of organics collection and composting methods for inclusion in the plan.
- Conserve resources and protect the public health, safety, and welfare from the short- and long-term dangers of transportation, processing, treatment, storage, and disposal of municipal waste.
- Evaluate the Plan to see how Zero Waste solutions can help meet other County goals and result in cost-savings and efficiencies across programs.
- Engage with stakeholders in the county throughout the development of the Plan, and provide extensive outreach to obtain feedback from all communities, including consultation with the County's Sustainability Commission [See Appendix B for description of Sustainability Commission] to take into consideration County sustainability goals.



# Apply for Green Ways Grant

- Green Ways Grants are available to Delaware County municipalities
- No match required
- Non-profits can apply w/ municipal partner
- Non-competitive Mini-PROS Plans for small communities
- Connect projects for trail engineering to allow up to \$250,000 cap
- **Apply August 27- Sept 13 at:**  
<https://t.co/v5QL7oLmKA?amp=1>



**GREEN  
WAYS**

**DELCO**  
GREEN SPACE  
AND TRAILS  
PROJECT

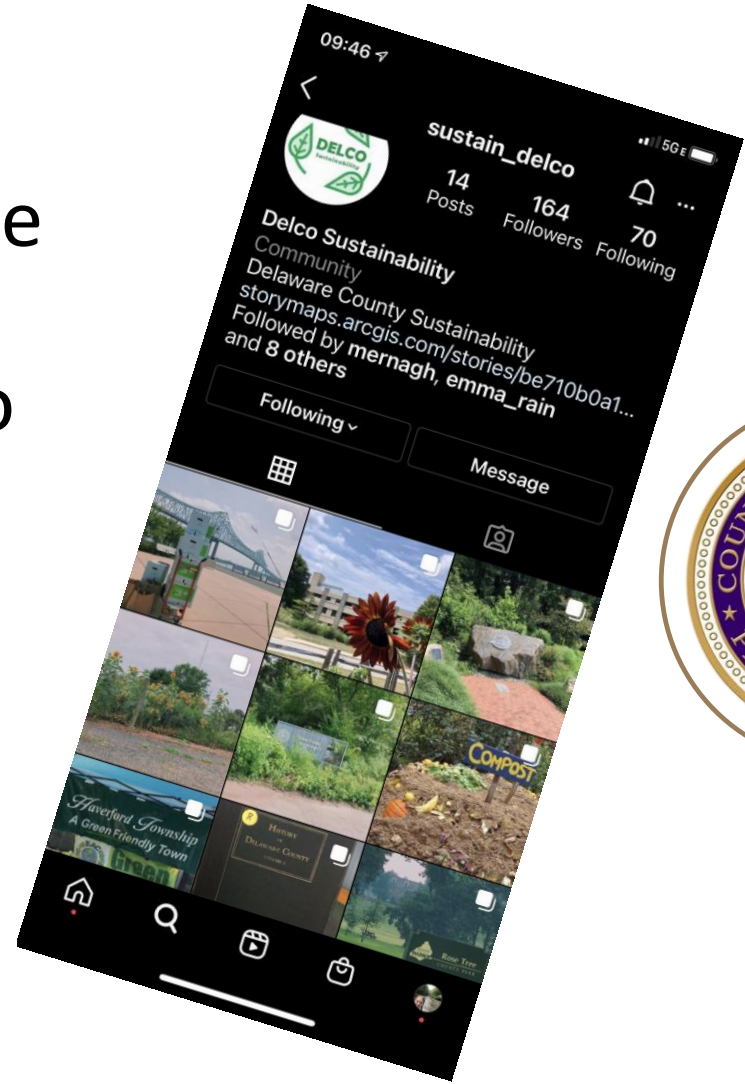
# Intern's Experience: Pippa Barratt





# Sustainable Summer

- Travelled the county to see smaller-scale sustainability actions to share with county residents and bring new ideas to county workers
- Worked with the Planning Department and created a website
- Created Delaware County Office of Sustainability's Social Media presence and posted daily.



# Favorite Tours

Garrett Williamson



Subaru Park



Solarize DELCO



Chester Creek Trail



# Administrative Work

- Participated in the RFP/Q review process
- Facilitated and scheduled meetings
- Met with lobbyists for federal funding grants
- Supported development of the Capital Improvement Program
- Attended press conference for Solarize DELCO
- Worked with Planning Department on the creation of Office of Sustainability logos





1



2



3



4



5



6



7



# Questions?

*Check for Public Comment:*

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# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN (CIP) Draft Prioritization Scoring System



# CIP Process (Draft)

1. Employee attends CIP training
2. Employee creates Statement of Need (SON)

Step 1 - Safety/Compliance Evaluation - (automatic addition to CIP)

Step 2 - Investigation

Step 3 – Ranking Priority

3. Employee submits SON to department director
4. Department director reviews submission and edits SON as needed; submits to Director of Public Works (DPW)
5. DPW with Chief Sustainability Officer vet request for addition to CIP
6. CSO submits full CIP proposal to CIP steering committee





# Step 1 – Safety/Compliance Evaluation

## **Addresses an Unsafe Condition**

- The expenditure is addressing a gap in the security of the County's IT infrastructure
- The vehicle purchase is replacing a current vehicle that has become unsafe (safety defects, known recalls, etc.)
- The expenditure addresses an imminent life-safety issue

## **Addresses a Non-Compliance Issue**

- The expenditure addresses a code requirement
- The expenditure addresses environmental or other regulatory deficiencies
- The expenditure addresses accessibility deficiencies
- The expenditure addresses an IT compliance issue

**\*Presence of these considerations means automatic addition of the expenditure to CIP**



# Step 2 - Investigation

## **Leveraging Partnerships**

- Investigate leveraging partnerships for funding assistance? (examples: local municipalities, state or federal funding, private/public partnerships, grants, etc.)

## **Status of Project**

- What is the status of the project at the time of the SON? (not ready to begin design or construction, ready to begin conceptual planning or study, ready to begin design, ready to begin bidding, ready to begin construction or acquisition)

## **Economies of Scale**

- Investigate economies of scale – are there other expenditures already on the CIP or in the process of being requested that could be grouped with this request to save money/time?



# Step 3 – Ranking Priority

## Considerations:

- Protects an existing asset
- Advances a strategic goal
- Advances the County's sustainability goals
- Enhances community quality of life
- Promotes equitable outcomes

## Scoring:

- Each consideration should be ranked on a scale of 1 through 5 (with 5 being the highest priority) using the rubrics provided
- Prioritization ranking is the average of rankings in all categories



# Protects an Existing Asset

| Score | All Projects   |
|-------|--|
| 0     | Does not apply   |
| 1     | Refresh: The proposed expenditure protects County facilities, infrastructure, and assets by addressing routine maintenance.  |
| 2     |  |
| 3     | Replace: The expenditure addresses the longevity of County facilities and infrastructure via the replacement of systems (i.e. roof replacements, vehicle replacements, computer network replacements).                       |
| 4     |  |
| 5     | Renew: The expenditure includes the complete re-investment in systems that can no longer serve their intended purpose and pose an eminent hazard to the health, safety, and welfare to County residents and employees alike. |



# Advances a Strategic Goal

Total of 5 points available

**Scoring for this consideration is ADDITIVE: one point for each**

The expenditure will assist the County in making progress towards its strategic goals:

- Transparency
- Accountability
- Equity
- Sustainability
- Extra point for a total of 5 points if expenditure addresses all four

## **Example 1:**

A project that advances transparency and accountability in the County gets 2 points.

## **Example 2:**

A project that advances transparency, accountability, equity, and sustainability in the County gets 5 points.



Transparency – Accountability – Equity - Sustainability

# Advances the County's Sustainability Goals

**Scoring for this consideration is ADDITIVE**, one point for each of the below parameters:

- The expenditure “greens” County property or systems (i.e., a project complies with more advanced energy efficiency codes, or will upgraded technology operate more efficiently than its predecessor)
- The expenditure preserves residents’ rights to clean air, pure water, and the preservation of natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic values of the environment (PA State Constitution, Article 1, Section 27)
- The expenditure contributes to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions or conservation of natural resources of the County.
- The expenditure contributes to the health and wellness of the community (general public or county employees) in terms of reduced pollution, walkability, access to food, etc.
- The expenditure addresses an environmental justice issue, such as accessibility or equity.

Total of 5 points available



# Enhances Community Quality of Life

Total of 5 points available

**Scoring for this consideration is ADDITIVE**, one point for each of the below parameters:

- The expenditure generates employment within or for residents of Delaware County.
- The expenditure contributes to the safety and security of the general public.
- The expenditure contributes to the physical and mental health of the community.
- The expenditure provides access to green and open space for recreation and leisure purposes for staff and/or residents.
- The expenditure addresses the digital gap, improving residents access to broadband or simplifying how residents interact with the county by improving digital access and



Note: Used this list for FY22 ranking. Considering refinement of parameters based on [World Health Organizations Assessment Domains](#) for FY23 and on: Physical wellbeing, psychological wellbeing, level of independence (accessibility), social relationships, environment (home, work, financial, etc.).



# Promotes Equitable Outcomes

Total of 5 points available

**Scoring for this consideration is ADDITIVE**, one point for each of the below parameters:

- The expenditure contributes to the improvement of historically marginalized communities within Delaware County
- The expenditure will be utilized in an area with above average unemployment rates (as determined by the US Census Bureau)
- The expenditure will be utilized where local Median Household Income levels are below poverty level (as determined by the US Census Bureau)
- The expenditure will be utilized in an area with high vacancy rates



Note: Did not rank this consideration for FY22, but these are some of the indicators we're considering for FY23 and on. We'd like to take more time to thoughtfully build these parameters for next fiscal. We are also going to work with Planning to develop a GIS map with the information needed to score these parameters and then make it part of the employee training process to use the map in the scoring process.

# Questions?

*Check for Public Comment:*

[GoGreenDelco@co.delaware.pa.us](mailto:GoGreenDelco@co.delaware.pa.us)



# Resolution Review



Public Comment: [GoGreenDelco@co.delaware.pa.us](mailto:GoGreenDelco@co.delaware.pa.us)

# Sustainability Plan High-Level Goals **Draft**



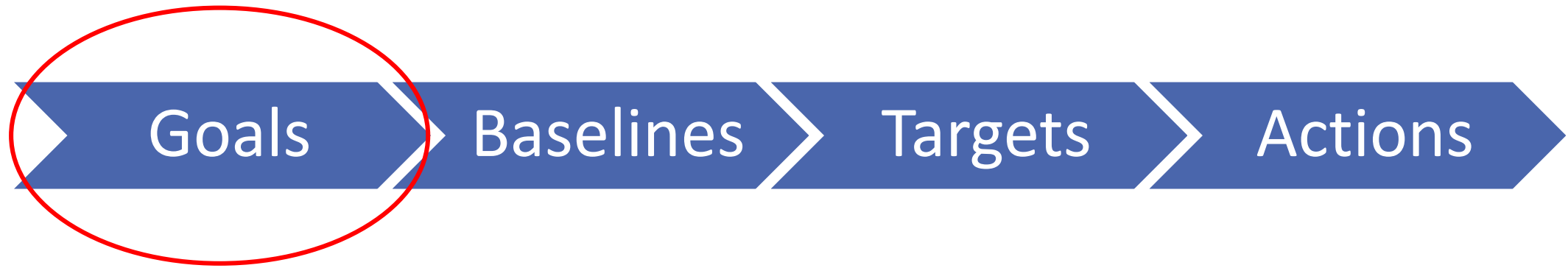
Public Comment: [GoGreenDelco@co.delaware.pa.us](mailto:GoGreenDelco@co.delaware.pa.us)

# Sustainability Plan Vision

A Sustainable Delaware County is one in which all people:

- have access to quality, energy efficient, and resilient infrastructure and community assets that are powered with renewable energy in connected and safe neighborhoods;
- quality medical care and locally sourced healthy foods are affordable and accessible to all;
- a high quality education is available for lifelong learning and helps all access good, well-paying jobs;
- natural and human systems are deeply connected and thrive;
- and the benefits of a more sustainable future are centered on the needs of those historically most vulnerable and marginalized in our communities.





## **SPECIFIC**

Be clear and specific so your goals are easier to achieve. This also helps you know how and where to get started!



## **MEASURABLE**

Measurable goals can be tracked, allowing you to see your progress. They also tell you when a goal is complete.



## **ACTIONABLE**

Are you able to take action to achieve the goal? Actionable goals ensure the steps to get there are within your control.



## **REALISTIC**

Avoid overwhelm and unnecessary stress and frustration by making the goal realistic.



## **TIMEBOUND**

A date helps us stay focused and motivated, inspiring us and providing something to work towards.

# 3-Verb Goals Draft

- Top Choices:
  - Conserve
  - Restore
  - Engage
  - Others: Encourage, Preserve, Connect, Adapt
- **New idea:** pick verbs that represent the triple bottom line?
  - Engage or Connect = people
  - Conserve = planet
  - Adapt = profit





# Topic Areas

| Topic Areas                   |
|-------------------------------|
| Health and Wellness           |
| Natural Resources             |
| Transportation                |
| Energy                        |
| Waste and Resource Management |
| Climate Resiliency            |

**Possible overarching themes:**

- Equity and inclusion - Ensure that the County is a socially just and inclusive community, where physical and mental health, social well-being, and the environment are valued, supported, and accessible to all.
- Economic growth
- Sustainability education
- Governance
  - In municipal comprehensive plans, there is a required section for "plan interrelationships" showing how the comprehensive plan works in tandem with other plans. A section like this may be beneficial to this plan to both show the existing plans but also how the County will be working with other entities to achieve all of these goals.
  - Expand County government leadership and staffing to implement the Sustainability Plan
  - Leverage the County’s resources and influence to advance sustainability, strengthen internal operations and responsiveness, and lead by example.



# Health and Wellness Goals - Draft

| Sub-Topic         | Goal   |
|-------------------|--|
| Water             | Support policies, programs, and collaboration to ensure access to safe, accessible drinking water  |
| Energy Efficiency | Encourage use of weatherization programs to improve indoor air quality and address utility burdens   |
| Health            | Improve the overall health and well-being of all County employees, residents, and visitors and eliminate health inequities to minimize the potential impacts of disasters and climate change on the most vulnerable residents. |
| Food              | Ensure a sustainable, local, safe, and healthy food supply that is accessible to all and supported by our community.   |
| Place             | Improve population health by systematically addressing the link between community health and place, including where we are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age.  |
| Green Cleaning    | Reduce the exposure of building occupants and cleaning personnel to potentially hazardous chemical, biological and particle contaminants   |



# Natural Resources Goals - Draft

| Sub-Topic     | Goal  |
|---------------|---|
| Ecosystems    | Protect, restore and expand aquatic and land ecosystems   |
| Public Spaces | Create and maintain accessible parks, recreational waters, public lands, and public spaces that create opportunities for respite, recreation, ecological discovery, and cultural activities |
| Water         | Reduce water consumption, long-term maintenance and improve habitat by use of native plants, xeriscaping and integrated pest management.  |
| Trees         | Protect and enhance tree canopy and wildlife habitats on County properties  |
| Water Use     | Decrease water consumption and increase rainwater reuse   |
| Stormwater    | Improve stormwater management processes and install green infrastructure to reduce the volume of stormwater runoff  |
| Land Use      | Encourage zoning improvements, regional collaboration, and reuse of commercialized spaces (greyfields) as opposed to new development in undeveloped spaces                                  |



# Transportation Goals - Draft

| Sub-Topic      | Goal   |
|----------------|--|
| Land Use       | Facilitate efficient, environmentally friendly, and healthy land use patterns that support public transit use, bicycling, and walking.   |
| Investment     | Promote policies, programs, and infrastructure investments that prioritize multi-modal, clean, efficient transportation options throughout the County.                           |
| Infrastructure | Expand safe, connected infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists to connect with public transit, and to connect neighborhoods with commercial and downtown centers and schools |
| Use            | Increase use of public transit, ride sharing and active (walking, biking) transportation.  |
| Employees      | Support and incentivize employee commuting alternatives and discourage less sustainable alternatives.  |
| Emissions      | Reduce emissions from vehicles in County operations  |
| EVs            | Promote electric vehicles, clean fuels, and improve access to electric vehicle charging stations   |



# Energy Goals - Draft

| Sub-Topic         | Goal   |
|-------------------|--|
| Energy Efficiency | Reduce energy use in County-owned and leased properties  |
| Energy Programs   | Promote existing energy-saving program use in commercial and residential properties  |
| Renewables        | Increase percentage of renewable energy provided on-site to County-owned properties  |
| Electrification   | Reduce reliance on fossil-fuel burning equipment (or increase electrification of equipment) within County-owned properties |
| Electrical grid   | Encourage modernization of electrical grid for improved efficiency and resilience  |



# Waste and Resource Management Goals - Draft

| Sub-Topic       | Goal   |
|-----------------|--|
| Economic growth | Educate/Encourage residents and businesses to buy local to support Delaware County's economy                     |
| Purchasing      | Increase percentage of materials purchased with recycled content   |
| Reduce          | Support policies and programs to reduce residential and commercial waste generated per capita                    |
| Reduce          | Reduce waste generated in County properties (action – sustainable purchasing programs)                           |
| Diversion       | Increase diversion from landfills (recycling, composting)  |
| Reuse           | Facilitate local reuse, repair, and recovery of materials for residents, businesses, and County-owned operations |
| Food Waste      | Prevent, reduce, and recover food waste.   |





# Climate Resiliency Goals - Draft

| Sub-Topic        | Goal  |
|------------------|---|
| Economic Growth  | Grow and diversify the County's economy, focusing on sustainability, climate, and resilience industries   |
| Economic Growth  | Provide opportunities for all residents and businesses to support the transition to a green economy through increased employment opportunities and training |
| Carbon           | Achieve net zero carbon emissions for county operations   |
| Carbon           | Encourage municipalities to create and implement net zero emission goals  |
| New Construction | Design high-performance and green building standards into County-funded properties, parks, and infrastructure   |
| New Construction | Incorporate climate resilience design considerations into building and infrastructure projects  |
| Resiliency       | Prepare County residents to be more prepared to combat extreme weather events   |
| Education        | Expand community education and engagement on sustainability practices that will help residents live green lifestyles and save money                         |



# Next Steps



- Perform assessments and initial outreach based on high-level goals (led by Sharon with help from County Departments and Commission)
  - Assess and benchmark current status of County operations and other Countywide efforts (determine “control, influence, educate” level)
  - Review existing plans
  - Surveys & focus groups
- Discuss equity statement/goals for sust. plan
- Based on assessments, adjust high-level goals, add targets with metrics, work on refining actions



# Government Center Solar Panel Dashboard



Installed in 2012  
305 kW!



# Communications Update

- Social Media

Twitter: [@SustainDelCo](https://twitter.com/SustainDelCo)

Facebook: [Delaware County Sustainability | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/DelawareCountySustainability)

Instagram: [https://instagram.com/sustain\\_delco](https://instagram.com/sustain_delco)

- Still building master stakeholder engagement list (associations, EACs, non-profits, etc.) – email suggestions to:

[jayes@co.delaware.pa.us](mailto:jayes@co.delaware.pa.us)

- Surveys for general public and municipalities initial vetting by sustainability plan committee. Will adjust several questions based on high-level goal discussion in next committee meeting. Then going to several internal departments for vetting.



*Check for Public Comment: [GoGreenDelco@co.delaware.pa.us](mailto:GoGreenDelco@co.delaware.pa.us)*

# GoGreenDelco Email

“The Infrastructure bill of 2021, recently passed by the U.S. Senate and under consideration by the U.S. House, provides funding targeted to marginalized communities such as Chester, PA, which have been bypassed in previous environmental initiatives. According to an article in Bloomberg News online ("The Infrastructure Bill Is a Trillion-Dollar Test for Environmental Justice", by Brentin Mock and Hadriana Lowenkron, August 11, 2021), funding will be available for such projects as replacement of lead water pipes and improving air quality monitoring in these communities. Chester, as an impoverished city with a marginalized population, has suffered the adverse impacts of environmental inequity for decades and needs this help to fund relevant mitigation projects.

I urge the Commission to apply for funds to (1) replace Chester's lead water pipes and (2) install a second high-tech air pollution monitoring station there (it has only one). This is a rare opportunity to address the decades-long environmental injustice which has plagued this city. As grants are likely to be competitive, please act urgently to apply for the funds. The offices of Senator Casey and Representative Scanlon may be helpful in facilitating the application process.”



Public Comment: [GoGreenDelco@co.delaware.pa.us](mailto:GoGreenDelco@co.delaware.pa.us)



# Questions?

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# Committees

- Greening Operations – closing down
- County-wide sustainability plan
- Zero waste
- Equity and inclusion?
- Outreach and engagement? Email management?



# Next Meeting

September 17 at 2:00pm



Public Comment: [GoGreenDelco@co.delaware.pa.us](mailto:GoGreenDelco@co.delaware.pa.us)

# Other Business/Announcements



Public Comment: [GoGreenDelco@co.delaware.pa.us](mailto:GoGreenDelco@co.delaware.pa.us)